



NEWARK PARTNERSHIP FOR LEAD SAFE CHILDREN

December 29, 1998

Dear Newark Partnership for Lead Safe Children Member,

Over one year ago the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, the City of Newark, and a coalition of community groups convened to improve and expand the lead poisoning prevention efforts already underway in Newark. The result was the formation of the Newark Partnership for Lead Safe Children. Beginning our second year, we can proudly say we have fifty community-based organizations officially signed on, contacts with many others, and we have accomplished much in the way of communicating with and educating each other.

This letter is to inform and update everyone on the Partnership's activities and future plans. For those of you who have been active on the Steering Committee, or on one of the sub-committees, some of this will be review. What we hope to communicate in this letter is:

- Resources raised for the Partnership and its members
- Committee members and activities
- Plans we have for 1999
- Your role in the Partnership

RESOURCES:

The duties of staffing the Partnership are being shared by Elizabeth Piano at the Gateway Maternal Child Health Consortium, and John Weber at New Jersey Citizen Action. Gateway received the grant from the state, and NJCA is a sub-grantee of Gateway. An administrative assistant will soon be hired to perform the duties currently covered by John and Elizabeth. *Please share the enclosed job flyer with anyone interested.*

There is a grant proposal outstanding to HUD for a pilot project involving Gateway and International Youth Organization/NJ Youth Corps. The project would have a team of IYO workers be trained in lead-safe maintenance practices, and use those workers to clean homes where lead poisoned kids have been found. The team would also teach the parents how to properly clean. Proper cleaning of a home with lead hazards can help reduce lead levels in children living there.

Episcopal Community Development and Gateway will partner in a project of mobile lead education. There will be a "lead education van" visiting different neighborhoods throughout Newark. This will bring lead poisoning prevention information directly to residents and precisely where it is needed most. *Contact Elizabeth Piano at Gateway, or Carla Lerman at Episcopal Community Development for more information.*

New Jersey Citizen Action and UMDNJ are collaborating on a study of financial interventions for lead abatements. The CLEAN (Community Lending and Evaluations of Abatements in Neighborhoods) project will study the efficacy of using loans given as part of the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) in abating lead hazards. Both groups will be actively looking for property owners who would like to take out a below-market rate loan to abate lead hazards. *Please contact John Weber for more information.*

Finally, the Partnership is funded until June of 1999. The small grant the state gave us to operate this past year was seed money. The hope was that we would stand on our own one day. The state might not have funds for us after June 1999. There are enough contacts and experience in the Partnership to find outside funders next year. *Please keep your eyes and ears open for any opportunity to further our lead work in Newark.*

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMITTEES:

One of the enclosures lists those who have officially joined the Partnership. Membership is open to any community group and they make up the majority of our members. There are, of course, entities actively involved in the Partnership that are not listed as members. These include the Newark Department of Health, the State Department of Health and Senior Services, and several of the area Health Maintenance Organizations. *If you know of a community group that would like to join the Partnership please let us know. Also, if anyone is interested in additional copies of the Partnership Directory please contact us.*

A list of committees and their members is included. If you would like to be on a committee please let us know. Similarly if you are on a committee but are unable to continue that obligation please let us know so we can fill the slot. The sub-committees meet bi-monthly at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. The steering committee will meet quarterly in 1999. A summary of what each committee is doing follows.

- Medical Committee – Facilitator, Elizabeth Piano. The medical committee decided to come up with a set of guidelines for HMO's to follow with respect to prevention, screening, follow-up and case management of lead poisoned children. The committee developed a good set of guidelines on their own, but have since learned of a complete protocol in use in New York state. This is an agreement between a large HMO and the Westchester County Health Department. This protocol is much more thorough than what the medical committee had developed, so our hope is to adopt the New York model. The medical committee would then send the guidelines to the medical directors of all the HMO's in the state. Another project of the medical committee is to develop and send out a survey to all the physicians in Newark. This will provide a clear picture

of exactly what is happening or not happening in the Dr.'s office regarding lead. Elizabeth Piano will be working with Nancy Murphy from the State on the survey.

-Education Committee – Facilitator, Elizabeth Piano. The education committee is working to get a lead message advertisement on the city buses. There was a lead poster contest in June for elementary school children. We have permission to use the winning poster in the advertisement. *Anyone aware of a way to have the ads printed up for free should contact either Elizabeth Piano or John Weber.* The other project of the education committee is to make some sense out of the numerous different educational brochures out there. The committee endeavors to sort through the materials available, and choose a few that are targeted to different audiences. We hope this will save an interested organization the trouble of reviewing lots of materials themselves. Similarly, the Partnership may choose to keep a supply of the best brochures we find to give groups in the Partnership easier access to them.

-Housing Committee – Facilitator, John Weber. The housing committee has chosen to reach out to landlords. We hope to play a role in educating owners and/or their staff about lead-safe maintenance practices. Also, we can alert owners wishing to abate lead about grants and loans available. We hope to do a mailing to let them know who we are. There are two different landlord associations in the state. One is for owners of under 20 units, and the other for large 20+ unit buildings. We will attempt to reach out to both of them. A few things that would be helpful for the entire Partnership to know: There are two lead-safe houses in Newark.

- 132-134 Hunterdon Terrace. This house has five apartments in operation since Oct. 1997.
- 278 Lehigh Avenue. This has 2 apartments in operation since Jan. 1998.
- A total of 117 families including 143 children have used the housing.

The number of elevated blood lead was broken down for us by Newark zip code. By far the most cases come from 07103, and 07108. Groups in the Partnership should keep this in mind as they serve high-risk families in Newark.

Anyone wishing to help any of the sub-committees in any way should feel free to do so because that is where most of the work of the Partnership happens.

- Steering Committee, Chair, John Weber. The Steering Committee decided on a campaign that could include the entire Partnership. Since the City only has two lead inspectors for the entire city, and they have a goal to have one per ward, we decided to help the City achieve that goal. We will advocate for more inspectors if needed. More importantly, we can identify people from member groups in the Partnership that would like to become lead inspectors. One must take a course and pass a comprehensive state test first, and of course there is a residency requirement to work for the City of Newark. But by identifying a few people to do this we can increase the number of potential candidates the city could hire. Several groups in the Partnership already do job training and placement so we feel confident in generating some interest in this. Of course we

will need some more details and a confirmation from the city, but we will pass along that information as we get it. *Anyone interested should contact us as soon as possible.*

Thank you to everyone who has participated to make the Partnership an avenue for communication and action around lead poisoning issues. Together we have and will continue to accomplish a great deal by pooling our talents and sharing information.

Please review the italicized portions of this letter to find out how you can help the Partnership. If there is more than one person in your organization involved in the Partnership please share this information with them.

**The following organizations have signed on as members of
The Newark Partnership for Lead Safe Children.**

Ad House
Association for Children of New Jersey
Babyland Family Services Inc.
Blessed Sacrament Healthcare Ministries
Boys and Girls Club of Newark
Catholic Community Services
Center for Family Health Rights
Community University Consortium for Regional Environmental Justice
Communication Workers of America local 1081
Essex Valley Visiting Nurses Association
FOCUS-Hispanic Center for Community Development Inc.
Friendly Fuld Head Start
Gateway Maternal Child Health Consortium
Greater Newark Conservancy
Greater Newark HUD Tenants Coalition
Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies of Essex County
Interfaith Clergy Alliance
International Youth Organization/NJ Youth Corps
Ironbound Community Corporation
La Casa De Don Pedro
The Leaguers Inc.
NAACP - Newark Branch
Newark Community Health Centers
Newark Day Center
Newark Emergency Services for Families Inc.
Newark Fighting Back Partnership Inc.
Newark Preschool Council Inc.
Newark WIC Program
New Jersey Citizen Action
New Jersey Poisoning Information and Education System
The Powell Group
Programs for Parents
Protestant Community Centers
Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic
Saint James Hospital
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network / Community Education Project
St. Columba Neighborhood Club
Tri-City People's Corporation
Trinity and St.Philips Cathedral
Tuning Point Newark
UMDNJ - Lead Poisoning Program
UMDNJ - School of Nursing
United Community Corporation
Urban League of Essex County
We Care for Children
Wellspring: Healthy Beginnings
White Lung Association
Wise Women's Center of Essex County College
Youth Consultation Service

Updated 12-98

NEWARK PARTNERSHIP FOR LEAD SAFE CHILDREN **Steering Committee List**

1. Tom Buchanan
International Youth Organization
703 South 12th Street
Newark, NJ 07103
Phone #: (973) 621-1105
Fax #: (973) 624-7977
2. Gina Pagano
Community Agencies Corporation/Wellspring
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Fax #: (973) 621-8120
3. Julie A. McCourt
UMDNJ/School of Nursing
30 Bergen Street, ADMC 111
Newark, NJ 07107-3000
Phone #: (973) 972-6668
Fax #: (973) 972-3225
4. John Weber
New Jersey Citizen Action
85 Raritan Avenue, Suite 100
Highland Park, NJ 08904
Phone #: (732) 246-4772
Fax #: (732) 214-8385
5. Brenda Craig
AD House, Inc.
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6. Stephen Marcus, M.D.
NJ Poisoning Information and Education System
201 Lyons Avenue
Newark, NJ 07112
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Fax #: (973) 926-0013
7. Gina Lucas
Association for Children of New Jersey
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Fax #: (973) 643-9153
8. Tiwana Steward-Griffin
Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic
15 Washington Street, Room 304
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Fax #: (973) 353-5537
9. Deborah L. Edwards
Newark Fighting Back
33 Washington Street
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Phone #: (973) 242-8200
Fax #: (973) 242-8287
10. Catherine Cuomo-Cecere, Acting Director
Newark Department of Health
110 William Street
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Phone #: (973) 733-6666
Fax #: (973) 733-3648
11. Kevin McNally
NJ Department of Health and Senior Services
P.O. Box 364
Trenton, NJ 08625
Phone #: (609) 292-5666
Fax #: (609) 292-3580
12. John Jefferson
La Casa de Don Pedro
317 Roseville Avenue
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Phone #: (973) 485-0701
Fax #: (973) 485-7555
13. Elizabeth Piano
Gateway Maternal Child Health Consortium
201 Lyons Avenue, G-3
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Phone #: (973) 926-7353
Fax #: (973) 923-8714
14. Myles O'Malley
White Lung Association
5901 Bergenline Ave.
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NEWARK PARTNERSHIP FOR LEAD SAFE CHILDREN

Sub-Committee List

EDUCATION/OUTREACH:

1. **Carolyn Booker**
We Care for Children Inc.
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Fax # SAME AS PHONE
2. **Tom Buchanan**
IYO/ NJ Youth Corps
Phone # (973) 621-1105
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3. **Brenda Craig**
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4. **Velda Font-Morris**
Newark Preschool Council, Inc., HEADSTART
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Fax # (973) 621-3635
5. **Ms. Adrienne M. Giddings**
Newark Public Schools -
Office of Early Childhood
Phone # (973) 733-8383
Fax # (973) 297-4093
6. **Dr. Anna Haroutunian**
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7. **Sanjay Kharod**
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8. **Candy Lively**
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9. **Julie McCourt**
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Fax #: (973) 972-3225
10. **Donna Meade**
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Fax #: (973) 743-1779
11. **Trish Morris-Yamba**
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12. **Elizabeth Plano**
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13. **Annette Reese**
Blessed Sacrament
Phone # (973) 242-4638
Fax # (973) 642-6090
14. **Marcia Schoolmaster**
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Fax # (973) 733-4144
15. **Ms. C.V. Shaw**
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16. **Wayne Smith**
Black Urban Alliance: The African America
Chamber of Commerce of N.J.
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17. **Antonia Ty MD**
N.J. Physician Lead Advisory Committee
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18. **John Weber**
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NEWARK PARTNERSHIP FOR LEAD SAFE CHILDREN

Sub-Committee List

MEDICAL:

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NEWARK PARTNERSHIP FOR LEAD SAFE CHILDREN

Sub-Committee List

Housing Committee:

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